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Security Precautions

Chilean security forces are preparing for trouble during the OAS General Assembly scheduled to convene in Santiago on June 4.

There have been no major terrorist incidents since tough state-of-siege measures were imposed following the coup in September 1973, but Chilean intelligence officials believe that leftists are planning acts of sabotage and violence to embarrass the Pinochet government.

They are rounding up as many as possible of those who might try to provoke disorders. About 50 persons have already been arrested.

Security forces have been placed on alert and police patrols are being reinforced throughout the country. Guards are being posted around embassies in Santiago to prevent any rush for political asylum by agitators trying to give substance to their charges of repression. Prominent prisoners are being closely guarded to prevent leftists from antagonizing them and blaming the junta.

The actions by the government may play into the hands of its critics. It has already arrested a lawyer who has worked with the Catholic Church on human rights cases and who has met with visiting US congressmen. This latter fact will almost certainly be played up in the foreign press as the motivation for the arrest.

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